

201
a drying medium essentially comprising [source of] a high pressure inert gas;
a pathway conducting said drying medium [inert gas] sequentially through said heating unit,
said drying unit and said feedstock gasification unit.

7. (Amended) The system of Claim 6 wherein a pathway recycles at least a portion of said inert gas between [is recycled from] said drying unit and [through] said gasification unit.

Claim 11, line 1, replace "claim 9" with -- claim 10--.

Claim 12, line 1, replace "claims 9, 10 or 11" with --claims 10 or 11--.

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7 and 8/7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to recite a means or structure that serves to recycle the inert gas. Claims 7 and 8/7 are amended herein to include the required recitation. The language regarding the direction of recycle flow has also been resolved by amendment.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite as depending upon a canceled claim. Claim 11 is amended herein to depend upon pending claim 10.

Claims 10 and 12 (and presumably 10/11 following the present amendments) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being vague with respect to inert gas being fed to the combustion turbine. It is also suggested that the specification does not support such use. The applicant disagrees with the office's position on this point as follows:

1. It is known to feed an inert gas along with oxygen to a combustion turbine, and in fact many combustion turbines utilize compressed air (containing approximately 70% nitrogen) rather than pure oxygen to combust the fuel. This known aspect of the technology certainly does not require any more specific diagrammatic detail in the drawing than is already provided.
2. Even the Schiffrers patent 4, 976,101 can be read to teach conduction of nitrogen to the combustion turbine. Figure 1 of that patent shows nitrogen from air decomposition plant 5 compressed by compressor 36, added to the gasification gas in gasifier 4, and then sequentially